

Euro-Mediterranean
WOMEN'S
Foundation



**WE
HAVE**
THE FLOOR:

MEDITERRANEAN
CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS
FOR GENDER EQUALITY
TO BECOME A REALITY



The present political, economic, humanitarian and social crises in the Mediterranean have entailed a regression in the rights of women who are the most affected by current conflicts and an increase in gender-based violence.

At the same time, women's organisations and civil society in general have never been so dynamic and, thanks to their mobilisation, great successes have been achieved in terms of gender equality.

The CSO WINS project supports associations' advocacy initiatives in favour of women's rights and offers tools to demand more favourable equality policies.

Implemented by:



Supported by:





The Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation (EMWF) is a non-profit independent organisation launched in 2014. It is structured as a Network of networks bringing together different kinds of gender equality actors in the Euro-Mediterranean area with the aim of:

- Advancing in the common fight for equal rights of women and men to participate in political, economic, civil and social life;
- Eradicating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;
- Encouraging a change in attitude and behaviour for gender equality.

Founding Members:

Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)
French State
European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
Federation of Women's Rights Leagues (FLDF)
Forum Femmes Méditerranée (FFM)
Euro-Mediterranean Academic and Scientific Network on Women and Gender (RUSEMEG)

Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation

Headquarters: European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
C/ Girona, 20 • 08010 Barcelona, Spain
www.euromedwomen.foundation



The European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), founded in 1989, is a think tank specialised in Mediterranean relationships based on a multidisciplinary and networking approach. The IEMed encourages analysis and cooperation with the aim to foster actions and projects which contribute to mutual understanding, exchange and collaboration between the different Mediterranean countries, societies and cultures, as well as to promote the progressive construction of a space of peace and stability, of prosperity and dialogue in the Mediterranean. Since 2014, the IEMed is the headquarters of the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation and hosts its secretariat.

Consortium formed by:

Government of Catalonia
Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Barcelona City Council

European Institute of the Mediterranean

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Founding Members:



Funded by:





WE HAVE
THE FLOOR

SUPPORTING THE ASSOCIATIONS TO INFLUENCE GENDER EQUALITY PUBLIC POLICIES: MAIN STAGES



The CSO WINS project targets local associations in order to:

- Strengthen their ability to mobilise public opinion with the aim of asserting women's rights.
- Encourage them to monitor women-related policies in the political, professional and social sectors at a local, national and Euro-Mediterranean level.

Civil society plays a key role in the promotion and implementation of laws favourable to equality. The CSO WINS project has fostered better coordinated actions and exchange of experiences, thereby helping to raise women organisations' voices, in particular those working outside capitals and big towns.

Since 2015, the CSO WINS project has favoured interactions and networking between 36 associations from Southern Mediterranean and European countries through a series of activities:

- Selection of 12 organisations that have developed successful advocacy and policy dialogue practices in favour of equality through a **call for proposals**.
- Production of a **study** on the critical success factors to undertake advocacy based on analysis of the 12 successful practices selected.
- Holding of **training sessions** on advocacy, networking and coaching techniques applied to the specific needs of the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Preparation of 18 strategic advocacy action plans in the form of **campaigns** to implement the skills acquired during the training.
- Selection and improvement of the 8 most feasible and pertinent campaign proposals, and support for the 8 organisations to effectively conduct these campaigns.
- Carrying out of 8 campaigns and **learning exchanges** in partnership with organisations that have undertaken successful advocacy practices.
- Pooling of experiences of the advocacy campaigns and definition of an **advocacy action plan in favour of gender equality at a Euro-Mediterranean level**.

- Holding of a **dialogue with policy-makers** in the field of gender equality at a Euro-Mediterranean level.
- Holding of **dialogues with national authorities** in 8 Southern Mediterranean countries to develop a more structured monitoring of the effective implementation of gender equality policies.
- **Capitalisation on the lessons learnt** in the project through a **toolbox** on advocacy.
- **Dissemination** of the project and the successes achieved by the associations thanks to the trilingual platform www.euromedwomen.foundation and the social networks.



The CSO WINS project in figures

80 successful practices in the field of the promotion of women's role in society have been identified, of which 12 have been analysed to encourage their implementation in other contexts.

24 organisations selected out of 200 candidate organisations for training on the planning of advocacy actions.

6 days of specialised training on the fundamental aspects of policy dialogue: advocacy strategies, communication, the media, fundraising and peer-to-peer mentorship and learning techniques.

18 strategic action plan proposals prepared in the form of campaigns.

8 advocacy campaigns implemented with tangible results in 7 different countries and in 3 thematic fields

(women's presence in political life, fight against gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment).

16 associations strengthened and networked thanks to learning exchanges (8 partnerships created according to the topics of the campaigns and the fields of expertise of each association).

8 videos produced on the experiences of the associations involved in the project and the achievements of the campaigns (other videos will be available in late 2017).

80 civil society organisations and international organisations, researchers, journalists and policy-makers discussed their priorities for improving the situation of women prior to the 4th Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.

The study "**Practices from the Field. Advocating for Women in the Euro-Mediterranean Region**" features 12 successful advocacy and political dialogue practices implemented in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It provides an insight into the different approaches, strategies and tools to demand the accountability of the local, regional or national authorities. Available in French, English and Arabic at www.euromedwomen.foundation

OUR DAUGHTERS ARE NOT FOR SALE

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE

Coordinating association

Life Foundation for Development and Community
Integration – Egypt

Partner association

Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR) –
Egypt

Targeted area(s)

Al Sharqia, Ismailia and Port Said Governorates –
Egypt



CONTEXT

Child marriages, particularly tourism or seasonal marriages, are a widespread phenomenon in Egypt: the issue is on the rise due to impoverishment and ignorance. In these types of marriages, non-Egyptian men travelling to the country marry girls much younger than them for an often short period (a few months). The man is likely to annul the contract at any time and the marriage usually ends with a divorce leaving girls in an emotionally, physically, psychologically and economically vulnerable state. Indeed, girls cannot prove that the marriage ever existed, which leads to many problems if a child is born out of this union. Moreover, the girls' body is not prepared for sexual relations, which results in very negative repercussions on their maternal and reproductive health. These marriages are punished by Egyptian law as an act of trafficking in women.

OBJECTIVE

Raise awareness among local communities and decision-makers in order to significantly reduce the number of child marriages, notably those called tourism marriages.



ACTIVITIES

- Training of 250 volunteers to detect cases of child marriages in the towns and villages targeted by the campaign through door-to-door visits and questionnaires.
- Awareness-raising and information among 500 families on the devastating consequences of tourism marriages for girls and their families.
- Health, psychosocial, legal and economic empowerment support for the victims identified in the campaign thanks to doctors, lawyers, legal advisors..., most of them volunteers.
- Local NGOs, religious leaders and the Egyptian Ministries of Justice and Solidarity were involved.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- There is better understanding of how tourism marriages work, their causes and consequences, and a list of the places where they take place has been compiled.
- Girls who are victims of this type of marriage are more willing to ask for help and know where to find it.
- Thanks to television programmes, public opinion is now aware of the scope of the problem: 1,500 people have signed a petition in order to harden the punishments imposed on the perpetrators, the lawyers, the judges and the other people involved in the implementation of these marriages.

FURTHER INFORMATION: <http://en.lfdci.org/home-page> and
www.facebook.com/GirlsNotForSale/?fref=ts

40,000 UNDERAGE GIRLS MARRIED EVERY YEAR, OUR DAUGHTERS' ARE IN DANGER

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE

Coordinating association

Anaouat for woman and child (Anaouat pour femme et enfant) – Morocco

Partner association

Association for the Development & Enhancement of Women (ADEW) – Egypt

Targeted area(s)

Municipalities of Sidi Mhammed Dalil, Sid Imokhtar and Mzouda – Chichaoua Province, Morocco

CONTEXT

In Chichaoua, 70% of girls under the age of 18 and 29% of girls under 16 drop out of school to marry, according to statistics of the Delegation of Education in the Province of Chichaoua. According to the same source, marriages in these areas are customary and are not registered with the civil authorities, which deprives wives of their rights to a pension, in the case of divorce, and to inheritance, in the case of death of their spouses. In addition, children who are born as a result of these marriages are considered illegitimate and are not recorded in the civil registry. The source adds that 80% of these girls are divorced. Moreover, marriages of young girls often have adverse effects on their health and well-being. Among the factors underlying these marriages are, notably, poverty, ignorance, the shortcomings of the education systems, the patriarchal and conservative stereotypes and unregistered customary marriages.

OBJECTIVE

Advocating among judges, religious leaders and local authorities to reduce the number of marriages among girls under the age of 18 and raising awareness of parents and educators about the risks of these marriages.



ACTIVITIES

- Meetings with religious leaders, judges and local authority officials to obtain their support.
- Awareness-raising actions (caravans) in the *douars*, the weekly markets and schools on education and income generating activities as alternatives to child marriage.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- An ethics charter was signed by the judges and the president of the religious council.
- No child marriage was registered during the campaign.
- The National Radio and Television Broadcasting Corporation gave its support to the campaign.
- The authority aides and the fkihs (marabouts) were involved to oppose cases of customary marriages (prevention of 30 child marriages).
- These 30 girls benefitted from training, and support was given to their families.

LET'S LIVE BETTER TOGETHER AND RESPECT GIRLS

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN AGAINST VERBAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN PUBLIC SPACES

Coordinating association

Information and communication association among the youths of Guelma (Association de l'information et de communication en milieu de jeunes de Guelma - INFO-COM Jeunes)

Partner association

MARCH – Lebanon

Targeted area(s)

Guelma Province – Algeria

CONTEXT

Sexual harassment and verbal violence against girls and women is a widespread phenomenon in public spaces in Algeria. In late 2015, the Penal Code was amended, specifically articles 333 and 341, to punish these types of violence. Nevertheless, sexual harassment is still a taboo and many cases of abuse of women and girls in public spaces are not reported or declared. Consequently, many families deprive their daughters from participating in sport and recreational or cultural activities, or even going to school.



OBJECTIVE

Promote the new amended law that criminalises verbal violence and sexual harassment in public spaces and encourage victims to report this form of violence, with the aim to dissuade aggressors and reduce the number of cases of violence.

WOMEN'S QUOTA: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN 2017

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN
IN FAVOUR OF LEBANESE WOMEN'S
ACCESS TO PARLIAMENT

Coordinating association

Women in Front (WIF) – Lebanon

Partner association

European Women's Lobby (EWL) – Belgium

Targeted area(s)

Lebanon

CONTEXT

According to the Lebanese Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, women's representation in political bodies in Lebanon is one of the lowest in the world. Although the Lebanese government has endorsed the 30% women's quota, this system has never been implemented. WIF, in collaboration with other Lebanese NGOs, proposed different scenarios of women's quotas to be included in the electoral law being discussed by the Parliament for the upcoming parliamentary elections. Moreover, the lack of information about the quota system has been identified as one of the biggest obstacles to its implementation.



OBJECTIVE

Raise awareness among Lebanese citizens, especially the (future) members of parliament, about the advantages of the quota system as a temporary measure to increase women's representation in politics.

بدنا نكون نصف المجتمع بالقول وبالفعل!



ACTIVITIES

- 4 promotional videos on the advantages of women's quota were produced.
- The videos were viewed more than 500,000 times on YouTube and the campaign has reached over 1.4 million people on Facebook, i.e. 47% of the total users of this resource in Lebanon.
- The videos were broadcast on 7 Lebanese television channels from 12 to 31 March 2017, an average of 3 times per day.
- The videos were screened in 4 universities and among women candidates to the parliamentary elections in awareness-raising sessions in partnership with the Lebanese Elections Assistance Project of the United Nations Development Programme and the "Women in Parliament" coalition, which consists of over 150 NGOs.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 220 female leaders (students, members of parties and independents) have become aware of women's discrimination in politics.
- 5 Lebanese ministers and figures have changed their attitude to the quota system and have publicly spoken out in favour of the campaign.
- Despite these efforts, the electoral law passed in June 2017 has not adopted the women's quota. However, the leaders of political parties are engaged in placing women at the head of the lists to increase the number of elected female representatives in the 2018 legislative elections.

FURTHER INFORMATION: www.womeninfront.org and www.facebook.com/womeninfront

ELECTIONS ARE ME AND YOU, NOT YOU NEITHER ME

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL COUNCILS

Coordinating association

Hiwar Center for Youth and Women's Empowerment
– Palestine

Partner association

Center of Women's Studies and Policies (CWSP) –
Bulgaria

Targeted area(s)

Beitunia, Kafarnaama and Dear Ibzia – Palestine



CONTEXT

In Palestine, Article 4 of the Law on Public Legislative Elections of 2005 guarantees the representation of women on electoral lists, while Article 17 of the Palestinian Law on Local Council Elections guarantees that women hold 20% of seats in local bodies. However, despite these provisions, Palestinian women's participation in political life and senior positions, particularly in local councils, is low. Bearing in mind the key role played by women for decades in the development of Palestine and the defence of its fundamental rights, it is time for them to occupy the place they deserve in the political and economic spheres.

OBJECTIVE

Increase women's representation in local councils (as voters and candidates) and promote the recognition of their contribution to society.

ACTIVITIES

- Awareness-raising sessions in secondary schools and universities to emphasise the importance of women's participation in local governance.
- Meetings between the members of the local councils and female leaders, notably youths, to encourage women to run for election.
- Training of 18 women candidates for the next elections in marginalised areas putting them in contact with women who have succeeded in politics (models). The mayors of the 3 target municipalities participated in the diploma presentation ceremony.
- Participation in 4 television programmes to promote the role of women in the political and economic spheres.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The campaign has contributed to fighting against the negative and stereotyped image that keeps women in their traditional role, notably reproductive, and that grants all rights and powers to men.
- Thanks to television, a message was sent to all levels of society about the importance of women's right to political participation. Concepts such as quota, elections and the challenges of women's economic and political empowerment were made available to the general public.
- The 18 women candidates now understand the procedures and workings of an electoral campaign. Thanks to agreements with the 3 municipalities engaged in the campaign, these women will attend meetings of the local councils and will be more involved in the public and civic life of their community.



HALF THE COUNCIL IS OUR RIGHT

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN TUNISIA

Coordinating association
MOUWATINET – Tunisia

Partner association
Moroccan Women's Voices Association
(Association Voix de femmes marocaines – AVFM)
(Morocco)

Targeted area(s)
Municipalities of Sfax ville, Sakiet Ezzit, Agareb,
Mahres in Sfax Governorate – Tunisia

CONTEXT

The Tunisian Constitution stipulates gender equality, and horizontal and vertical parity was established in the electoral law. Nevertheless, and despite the active role of Tunisian women in professional life and civil society, their presence in decision-making positions (political parties, municipal councils, parliament) is far below their expectations. For this reason, women's participation in the political life of the Tunisian society in transition is an urgent need to strengthen equality between women and men and ensure parity.

OBJECTIVE

Support women's participation in the 2018 municipal elections in order to promote their roles in political life and decision-making in Tunisia.



ACTIVITIES

- The conference on decentralisation held in December 2016 led to arguments to advocate the need to hold municipal elections as soon as possible and speed up the renewal of elected representatives.
- Another conference on the municipal elections and the implementation of the constitutional provisions concerning local power was held in May 2017.
- Stands, activities on the ground and the dissemination of awareness-raising materials publicised the campaign's stakes to the general public.
- 20 women were trained in leadership and local governance and encouraged to run for municipal elections.
- Over 250 policy-makers became aware of the importance of having women in senior decision-making positions (deputies of the National Assembly, elected representatives at a local level, political parties and civil society associations).

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Thanks to advocating in favour of horizontal parity with a group of 35 associations, including Mouwatinet, the horizontal parity law was adopted on 14 February 2017 stipulating that there must be an equal number of men and women running for the elections.
- The heads of 5 political parties were mobilised and each sent 2 potential women candidates to participate in the training planned by the campaign.
- The 20 women candidates trained have achieved greater visibility and public recognition.
- Equality has been placed at the heart of the public debate when it seemed inopportune to speak of it because of the security, political and social crisis experienced by Tunisia during the campaign.



BUILDING UP AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN FOR
ENCOURAGING FEMALE
ENTREPRENEURS TO JOIN
THE OFFICIAL MARKET IN LIBYA

Coordinating association

Jusoor Center for Studies and Development – Libya

Partner association

Gender Alternatives Foundation (GAF) – Bulgaria

Targeted area(s)

Benghazi, Tripoli, Yefren and Sabha – Libya

CONTEXT

In Libya, most female-owned start-ups and businesses are not officially registered. Women often prefer social media and online-based outlets to promote their businesses in order to avoid government registration fees and the complicated tax system in place in the country. By staying in the shadow economy, women's economic potential remains unrecognised and they miss the chance of having access to different types of financial support, such as credits or loans that could help them have more sustainable and successful businesses.

OBJECTIVE

Raise the lawmakers' and government's awareness of the importance of creating a business environment that encourages women to officially register their businesses and adopt incentives to facilitate women's inclusion in economic growth.



ACTIVITIES

- A report on the importance of encouraging the role of women in the private sector and the hindrances that limit women's participation in businesses, including business and start-up incubators, was produced and disseminated.
- 40 women working in the informal sector took part in focus groups to analyse the challenges they face to access markets, female entrepreneurs' networks and credits and express their ideas on the measures to be implemented to start a business or commercial activity legally.
- A roundtable with male and female experts and the parties involved enabled the drafting of recommendations for a decree facilitating the registration of women-owned business among the official authorities.
- The campaign was disseminated in the media and the social networks, in partnership with other civil society organisations and the Small and Medium Enterprises National Programme.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A petition has alerted the decision-making bodies about the need to decrease business registration fees, to simplify the registration procedures and to grant tax concessions and advantages to micro enterprises and commercial activities led by women.
- The campaign, by taking an interest in female entrepreneurs who survive in deplorable security and political conditions, has pointed out how far women show resilience and their importance for the improvement of living conditions in Libya.

I WANT MY INHERITANCE

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO INHERITANCE

Coordinating association

Badr Altawael Association for Local Population Development – Egypt

Partner association

The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development – JOHUD (Jordan)

Targeted area(s)

Sohag Governorate – Egypt

CONTEXT

Egyptian women, especially in rural areas such as the Al Sa'eed region (Sohag Governorate), are victims of a special type of violence which consists of depriving them of their inheritance. Although the Egyptian Civil Code affirms women's right to own, inherit and use their property independently of men, in Sohag most women are deprived of their inheritance and are unable to manage it. Moreover, many prejudices linked to inheritance ("It is better to give women a lump sum rather than their legal inheritance"; "If women receive their inheritance, they will want to become independent") lead families to accept and encourage this practice. The result is that women are deprived of their economic rights, which makes them more vulnerable.

OBJECTIVE

Mobilise members of parliament, civil society organisations and Muslim and Christian religious leaders to raise the community's awareness of women's legitimate right to ownership and inheritance.



ACTIVITIES

- Lectures, roundtables and training sessions were held aimed at civil society organisations, the media, judges, local authorities, judicial staff, community and religious leaders, and so on, on women's right to inheritance.
- Awareness-raising and theatre-forum activities aimed at the general public to encourage debate on women's access to inheritance from the legal point of view and religious texts (sharia).
- A committee of mediators made up of lawyers and a media committee were constituted.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 17 members of parliament representing the Sohag Governorate mobilised in favour of a reform of the law to increase sanctions against people who deprive women of their inheritance.
- 26 cases were examined to obtain proof and 87 conflicts were settled out of court.
- Religious leaders (Christian and Muslim) have engaged to support the campaign and have talked about women's right to heritage in their sermons to reduce this discriminatory practice.



QUOTES FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS INVOLVED IN THE CSO WINS PROJECT

Thanks to a successful methodology, the CSO WINS project has involved associations with varying experience that now are better equipped to influence the political and social agenda of women's rights.

In their own words:

INFO-COM Association (Algeria): *"During the implementation of the campaign we achieved credibility among decision-making bodies."*

Mouwatinet (Tunisia): *"The awareness-raising and mobilisation actions have enabled our association to attract a large number of sympathisers and above all new members... Thanks to this campaign, our association has managed to consolidate its position among the civil society components in Sfax and achieve official recognition."*

Life Foundation for Development and Community Integration (Egypt): *"Our partner association, the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights, has suggested strategic institutions to be involved in the campaign and new approaches to achieve our advocacy target."*

Gender Alternatives Foundation (Bulgaria): *"The meeting with the Jusoor Center for Studies and Development in Libya has resulted in very enriching exchanges on our respective professional experiences."*

MARCH Association (Lebanon): *"The exchange of lessons learnt has enabled us to know more about violence in Algeria, the socioeconomic context and the current challenges. We have envisaged new forms of cooperation with our partner association: conducting training sessions, youth exchanges..."*

Hiwar Association (Palestine): *"During our visit to the Centre of Women's Studies and Policies in Bulgaria, we realised that we are fighting the same battles. Despite different political and historical contexts, we are confronting the same prejudices according to which women are not capable of exercising political power."*



The CSO WINS project “Capacity building in the Southern Mediterranean to open policy dialogue and monitoring for women in society” is funded by the European Union.

It is implemented by the European Institute of the Mediterranean, in partnership with 6 organisations:

- Association of Victims of Terrorism Djazairouna,
- Center of Arab Women for Training and Research - CAWTAR
- Federation of Women's Rights leagues - FLDF
- Forum Femmes Méditerranée - FFM
- Palestinian Businesswomen's Association Asala
- Euro-Mediterranean Academic and Scientific Network on Women and Gender - RUSEMEG

The project is part of the mission and objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation (FFEM).

The project targets 8 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, and its implementation period is from 2015 to 2018.

Heads of advocacy campaigns:



Project partners:



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